Section I (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend claim 5 as set out in the following listing of the claims 1-47 of the application.

1. **(Previously presented)** A method comprising:

puncturing, with a piercing element of a hollow connector in fluid communication with at least one fluid, an opening of a membrane that encloses the hollow connector in a gas that is essentially sterile and at the time of puncture has a pressure of greater than about 1 atm, wherein puncturing the opening of the membrane generates a laminar flow of the gas along sides of the opening; and

transferring the at least one fluid through the opening with the piercing element of the hollow connector.

2. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising attaching a container, that stores the at least one fluid, to an end of the hollow container that is opposite of an end that includes the piercing element.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising opening a latch between the hollow connector and the first container.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein puncturing the opening of the membrane comprises puncturing the opening in a partial slit or cut in the membrane that does not penetrate completely through the membrane.

5. **(Currently amended)** A method comprising:

enclosing a connector within a membrane housing;

inserting a gas that is essentially sterile into the membrane housing at a gas pressure such that after a piercing element of the connector pierces an opening in the membrane housing, a laminar flow of the gas out of the membrane housing is generated along sides of the opening; ~~and~~

sealing the membrane housing from an environment external to the membrane housing; and

piercing an opening in the membrane housing with the piercing element of the connector to generate a laminar flow of the gas out of the membrane housing along the sides of the opening.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein inserting the gas into the membrane housing at the gas pressure comprises inserting the gas into the membrane housing at a gas gage pressure of greater than about 5 millibars.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, further comprising creating a partial slit or cut in an inner lining of the membrane housing that does not penetrate an outer lining of the membrane housing.

8. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein creating the partial slit or cut in the inner lining of the membrane housing comprises creating the partial slit or cut in the inner lining of the membrane housing at a location in the membrane housing where the piercing element of the connector punctures the opening.

9. **(Previously presented)** An apparatus comprising:

a hollow connector having an interior wall defining a chamber for the passageway of fluids, wherein the hollow connector comprises a distal end and a proximal end, wherein the distal end is configured to engage a container and the proximal end has an aperture there through for the egress of the fluids from the container; and

a membrane having an interior surface defining a chamber for housing the hollow connector with a gas that is essentially sterile,

wherein the apparatus includes at least one of the following features:

(i) the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1 atm inside the chamber;

(ii) the interior surface of the membrane has a partial slit or cut that does not penetrate completely through the membrane;

(iii) the apparatus further comprises a latch coupled between the container and the hollow connector; and

(iv) the hollow connector is configured to engage the container via a threaded connection.

10. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, nitrogen, argon, or a combination thereof.

11. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the gas is more than about 95% sterile.

12. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1.05 atm inside the chamber.

13. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1.1 atm inside the chamber.

14. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 200 microns.

15. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the membrane has a thickness of between about 15 microns to about 200 microns.

16. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the interior surface of the membrane has a partial slit or cut that does not penetrate completely through the membrane.

17. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a container that is connected to the distal end of the hollow connector.

18. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a latch coupled between the container and the hollow connector.

19. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the hollow connector comprises a needle or a cannula.

20. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the container comprises a flexible bag.

21. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the hollow connector is configured to engage the container via a threaded connector.

22. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the distal end of the hollow connector is further configured to engage a second container, wherein the second container is to receive, through the connector, the fluids from the container.

23. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the fluids comprise bodily fluids.

24. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the bodily fluids comprise blood.

25. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the bodily fluids comprise at least one of macrophages, B lymphocytes, cytotoxic T lymphocytes, plasma cells, helper cells, B lymphocytes, antibodies, erythrocytes, leukocytes, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

26. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the bodily fluids comprise arterial blood, banked blood, cord blood, defibrinated blood, laky blood, oxalated blood, or whole blood.

27. **(Previously presented)** A system comprising:

a first delivery assembly comprising:

a first container having an opening, the first container to hold a liquid;

a hollow connector having an interior wall defining a chamber for a passageway for the liquid, wherein the hollow connector comprises a distal end and a proximal end, wherein the distal end is configured to engage the first container and the proximal end has an aperture there through for the egress of the liquid from the container; and

a membrane having an interior surface defining a chamber for housing the hollow connector with a gas that is essentially sterile, wherein the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1 atm inside the chamber;

wherein the first delivery assembly includes at least one of the following features:

(i) the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1 atm inside the chamber;

(ii) the interior surface of the membrane has a partial slit or cut that does not penetrate completely through the membrane;

(iii) the first delivery assembly further comprises a latch coupled between the first container and the hollow connector; and.

(iv) the hollow connector is configured to engage the first container via a threaded connection.

28. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27 further comprising a second delivery assembly, wherein the second delivery assembly comprises:

a different connector configured to engage the hollow connector; and

a second container to receive, through the second connector, the liquid from the first container through the aperture.

29. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, nitrogen, argon, or a combination thereof.

30. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the gas is more than about 95% sterile.

31. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1.05 atm inside the chamber.

32. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1.1 atm inside the chamber.

33. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 200 microns.

34. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the membrane has a thickness of between about 15 microns to about 200 microns.

35. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the interior surface of the membrane has a partial slit or cut that does not penetrate completely through the membrane.

36. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the first delivery assembly comprises a latch coupled between the first container and the hollow connector.

37. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the hollow connector comprises a needle or a cannula.

38. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the first container comprises a flexible bag.

39. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the hollow connector is configured to engage the first container via a threaded connector.

40. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the liquid comprise bodily fluids.

41. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 40, wherein the bodily fluids comprise blood.

42. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 40, wherein the bodily fluids comprise at least one of macrophages, B lymphocytes, cytotoxic T lymphocytes, plasma cells, helper cells, B lymphocytes, antibodies, erythrocytes, leukocytes, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

43. **(Previously presented)** The system of claim 40, wherein the bodily fluids comprise arterial blood, banked blood, cord blood, defibrinated blood, laky blood, oxalated blood, or whole blood.

44. **(Previously presented)** A kit comprising:

a delivery assembly comprising a hollow connector having an interior wall defining a chamber for the passageway of fluids, wherein the hollow connector comprises a distal end and a proximal end, wherein the distal end is configured to engage a container and the proximal end has an aperture there through for the egress of the fluids from the container, the delivery assembly comprising a membrane having an interior surface defining a chamber for housing the hollow connector with a gas that is essentially sterile, wherein the delivery assembly includes at least one of the following features: (i) the gas has a pressure of greater than about 1 atm inside the chamber; (ii) the interior surface of the membrane has a partial slit or cut that does not penetrate completely through the membrane; (iii) the delivery assembly further comprises a latch coupled between the first container and the hollow connector; and (iv) the hollow connector is configured to engage the container via a threaded connection;

packaging material; and

instructions or indicia located on the packaging material or inside the packaging material.

45. **(Previously presented)** The kit of claim 44, further comprising a fluid located in the container.

46. **(Previously presented)** The kit of claim 44, wherein the interior surface of the membrane has a partial slit or cut that does not penetrate completely through the membrane.

47. **(Currently amended)** The kit of claim 44, wherein the delivery assembly comprises a latch coupled between the container and the hollow connector.